

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
14 October 2004 (14.10.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/088335 A1

(51) International Patent Classification: G01R 29/12

(21) International Application Number: PCT/JP2004/004342

(22) International Filing Date: 26 March 2004 (26.03.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data: 2003-089465 28 March 2003 (28.03.2003) JP

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): CANON KABUSHIKI KAISHA [JP/JP]; 3-30-2, Shimomaruko, Ohta-ku, Tokyo, 1468501 (JP).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): YASUDA, Susumu [JP/JP]; c/o CANON KABUSHIKI KAISHA 3-30-2, Shimomaruko, Ohta-ku, Tokyo, 1468501 (JP). YAGI, Takayuki [JP/JP]; c/o CANON KABUSHIKI KAISHA 3-30-2, Shimomaruko, Ohta-ku, Tokyo, 1468501 (JP). USHIJIMA, Takashi [JP/JP]; c/o CANON KABUSHIKI KAISHA 3-30-2, Shimomaruko, Ohta-ku, Tokyo, 1468501 (JP).

1468501 (JP). ZAITSU, Yoshitaka [JP/JP]; c/o CANON KABUSHIKI KAISHA 3-30-2, Shimomaruko, Ohta-ku, Tokyo, 1468501 (JP). ICHIMURA, Yoshikatsu [JP/JP]; c/o CANON KABUSHIKI KAISHA 3-30-2, Shimomaruko, Ohta-ku, Tokyo, 1468501 (JP).

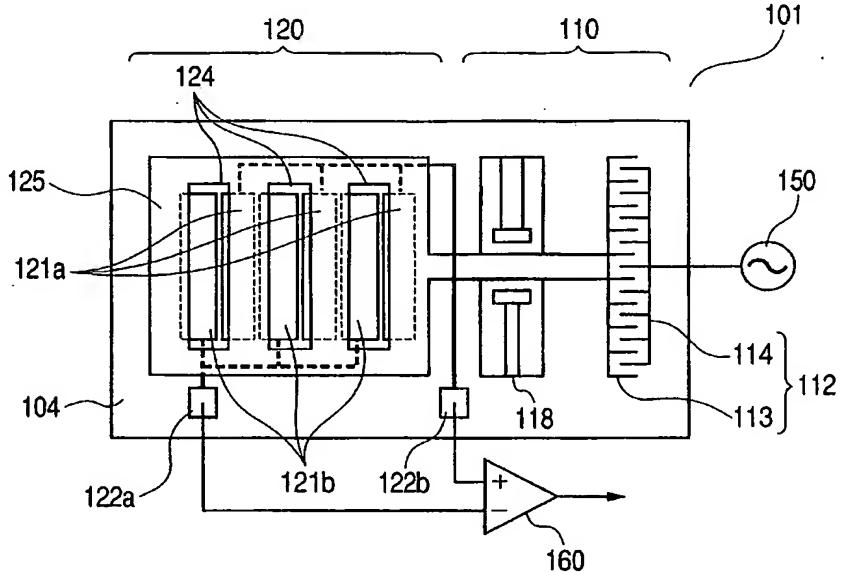
(74) Agents: OKABE, Masao et al.; No. 602, Fuji Bldg. 2-3, Marunouchi 3-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 1000005 (JP).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: MICROMECHANICAL POTENTIAL SENSOR



(57) Abstract: A potential sensor (101) including first and second detection electrodes (121 a, b) opposed to an object of which a potential is to be measured, and a movable shutter (125) so positioned between the detection electrodes and the potential-measured object with gaps thereto; wherein the movable shutter can assume a first state and a second state, the first detection electrode is exposed to the potential-measured object wider when the movable shutter assumes the first state than when the movable shutter assumes the second state, and the second detection electrode is exposed to the potential-measured object narrower when the movable shutter assumes the first state than when the movable shutter assumes the second state.

WO 2004/088335 A1



GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR, OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

— before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

Published:

— with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.